

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending. Claims 2-3, 7-8, 10-30, and 32-33 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 31 and 34 are rejected. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 31 and 34 are amended. New claims 35-37 are added. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification for e.g., at page 13, lines 14-17, and pages 14-17. No new matter has been added as a result of the amendments. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims and/or the subject matter contained therein, in one or more divisional/ continuation applications.

The Examiner has rejected the pending claims as anticipated under 35 USC § 102 or alternately as obvious under 35 USC § 103 over US 4,127,706 (hereinafter “Martin ‘706”), US 4,043,331 (hereinafter “Martin ‘331”), US 2004/0037813 (hereinafter “Simpson ‘813”), US 2003/0215624 (hereinafter “Layman ‘624”), US 6,800,155 (hereinafter “Senecal ‘155”) and US 2003/0017208 (hereinafter “Ignatious ‘208”).

The claims, as presently amended, are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

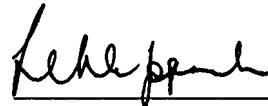
In view of the above arguments and amendments, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

This paper is accompanied by an RCE transmittal form and a petition for extension of time, along with the authorization to charge the respective fees. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the required fee in connection with this paper to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (064422-5007US).

Respectfully submitted,

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